

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. BUDD. Madam Speaker, I missed votes last week because I tested positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 230; NAY on Roll Call No. 231; NAY on Roll Call No. 232; NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I was absent for the votes scheduled on Friday, December 4, 2020, due to a conflict in my schedule. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 233; YEA on Roll Call No. 234; and NAY on Roll Call No. 235.

VICTORVILLE MAYOR GLORIA GARCIA RETIRES

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the retirement of Gloria Garcia from the Victorville City Council.

Mayor Gloria Garcia was born and raised in Victorville, CA. Gloria attended Victor Valley Sr. High School, Victor Valley College, and Skadron College of Business. She was elected to the Victorville City Council in November 2012 and was appointed Mayor by her fellow Council Members in December 2014. She was reelected in 2016, and continuously reappointed as Mayor by her colleagues on the council. Gloria's time on the council has been marked by many successes in Victorville. Her focus on public safety, new infrastructure, road maintenance has led to great improvements and safer neighborhoods in Victorville.

Mayor Garcia has served the council with honor and integrity, and her commitment to good government and transparency has served the citizens of Victorville well. Although her second term has seen Victorville and its Council experience discord and disruption, Gloria has remained steadfast and focused on working for the people of Victorville. I will truly miss Gloria's face on the council dais, and I wish much happiness and success in her future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF EDWARD LANE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of longtime Fresnan and Pearl

Harbor survivor, Edward Lane, who passed away on September 6, 2020. He was a proud husband, father, public servant, leader and a survivor.

Edward was born on December 2, 1936 in San Francisco, California. Although he was not born in Fresno, he always considered it home. Growing up, he frequently moved across the country due to his father's military career, but he always returned to Fresno. He graduated from San Joaquin Memorial High School in 1954 and attended Fresno State in 1958 with a degree in marketing.

Edward's life took an interesting journey, beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. His father was responsible for overseeing a military hospital in Hickam Field, Hawaii when World War II began. His home was only two blocks away from Pearl Harbor. During the attack, an anti-aircraft shell landed on his family's house. Fortunately, it did not explode and he survived. Telling the "December 7th story" was an annual event for the family.

Edward often thanked his parents and big brother, Mike, for teaching him work ethic. These skills led him to his 36-year career with the State of California's Employment Development Department (EDD). He was appointed by several governors to serve in many senior management positions during his tenure. He worked to establish EDD as an important and active asset in communities throughout the state and maintained his belief in the positive power of government to respond to the needs of individuals and the community at large.

Edward was a big sports fan. A Fresno State season ticket holder for over 60 years, he rarely missed home football and basketball games. However, his biggest passion was tennis. He was active on and off the court for over 47 years in the Fresno tennis community. He captained two teams that won national championships and served as a club president. He loved animals and had pets ranging from dogs, cats, to a small rhesus monkey from South Africa.

Edward is survived by his wife and best friend for over 60 years, Jean Lane; children Brian, Valerie, and David; grandchildren Michael, Nicholas and Alyssa Bavaro; son-in-law Vince Bavaro; and daughter-in-law Lucy Gonzalez.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and honoring the life of Mr. Edward Lane. His leadership and story will be remembered for many years to come. We join his family, friends and community in honoring his great life and legacy.

HONORING THE STAFF MEMBERS REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 21ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. TJ COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the individuals who dedicated their time and talents to the constituents of California's 21st Congressional District. During my time in office, my staff made incredible strides in improving the lives of thousands of people, and it did not go unnoticed. I want to recognize and thank the following individuals for their service and dedica-

tion to helping others with great gratitude for a job well done:

Christopher Bornmann; Gilbert Felix; Gabriel Garcia-Contreras; François Genard; Andrew Godinich; Jared Henderson; Rebecca Kahn; Joel Kasnetz; Joseph Lopez; John Lynch; Lindsey Madrigal; Lucine Mikhajian; Araceli Muñoz; Nandini Narayan; Virginia Peñaloza; Fabiola Rodriguez; Cody Sedaño; Amanda Stayton; and Jannett Tapia.

My staff went above and beyond to serve our district by developing meaningful legislation, completing hundreds of casework, answering thousands of constituent inquiries, keeping in contact with constituents both in person and through media, and much more.

Because of their efforts, we accomplished incredible things in the 116th Congress. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring these public servants and giving them the recognition they deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ROBERT PITTS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 7, 2020

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Pitts. Bob represents the best of our greatest generation, and I am forever indebted to him for his service to this nation. As a fellow member of the 150th Combat Engineer Battalion, I am grateful for the precedent set by these brave soldiers.

Bob was born in 1923, the second oldest of ten siblings. In the height of the Great Depression, Bob often found himself working odd jobs after school to support his family. In the 8th grade he dropped out and attended Boston Trade School to train as an electrician.

In 1943, Bob enlisted in the United States Army. After training in Ft. Devens, he joined the 150th Engineer Battalion, an experimental unit comprised mostly of New England locals. After Basic and Engineering Training, Bob relocated to New York to continue his training as an electrician. The outfit returned from West Virginia and trained in a mock German village at Camp Edwards. On Christmas, Bob deployed with the 150th on the Queen Mary to Europe.

While overseas, Bob was assigned as battalion photographer. His duties included taking photos of unit operations, which often placed him in the line of fire. He was awarded the Bronze Star for actions under fire while operating in Germany. He was also awarded the rank of Tech5. After VE Day, TSGT 5 Pitts and his unit were sent to Czechoslovakia and returned to the states with different outfits. What distinguishes the 150th is their continued relationship. For more than sixty years the unit enjoyed annual gatherings. After the war, Bob pursued his interest in engineering at MIT. He worked on some of the earliest computers and earned the title Electronic Engineer Assistant.

Mr. Pitts was married to Eleanor M. Hathaway for 48 years before her passing in 1998. Together, they had three children; Robert, Nancy, and Richard. His youngest built and maintains the webpage for the 150th battalion, honoring his father's memory and the accomplishments of the unit.